THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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MAY-DAY GREETINGS

HEROIC DEATH, 1916.

No man shall deck their resting place with flowers;
Behind a prison wall they stood to die,
Yet in those flowerless tragic graves of ours
Buried, the broken dreams of Ireland lie.

No cairn-heaped mound on a high windy hill
With Irish earth the hero's heart enfolds,
But a burning grave at Pentonville,
The broken heart of Ireland holds.

Ah! ye who slay the body, how man's soul
Rises above your hatred and your scorns—
All flowers fade as the years onward roll,
Theirs is the deathless wreath—a crown of thorns.

EVA GORE BOOTH.

MAY DAY, 1917.

The promise of May
Is Famine and Blood,
Not blossom and bud;
Yet the soul stands at bay
And dares still to sing
Of the Spring!

ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

RONDEL.

Before I die, ah, let me break a lance,
That ere my tilth of summer passes by,
Through something high I may my life enhance,
Before I die.

That Song's worth through the worth of old Romance,
High Beauty, may more clearly testify
To God's own lovers Love's inheritance.

And of all gifts what God so ever grants,
That I may wear with honour and heart high
The guerdon of some well-beloved's glance,
Before I die.

ERIC CHAPPELOW.

LAGGARD SPRING.

Spring should be with us—but spring is a laggart.
We are weary of waiting; and winter is long.
Slowly, ah, slowly, the boughs come to burgeoning;
Tardily, tardily, birds wake to song.

Over a year ago, flaming to westward,
Spring came to Eirinn: the dark Rosaleen,
Clad in white cloud, golden gorse and green meadow,
Rose in a glory of gold, white and green.

Now once again the old earth is a-tremble
With the joy and the passion and pulse of the spring:
Far to the eastward the new buds are blossoming;
Fruitful, O God, be the promise they bring.

Spring, that has come to the east- and the westward,
Soon may it come to rouse England again;
Come to her, red as her own English roses,
Red as the blood in the hearts of her men.

W. N. EWER.

LIBERTY: "Leave that cruel gun, the Spring and your home call you. Liberty dwells with peace and Universal Brotherhood."

MAY DAY MESSAGES.

"Workers, emancipate yourselves." This is the word that on May Day travels with the sun round the world, and with this word there flames the promise of more abundant life. If ever there was hope for the workers in every country, it is now, when the people of Russia, freeing themselves from the long winter of despair, have risen into the light of freedom. And yet in our own country to-day the forces of tyranny are strong and menacing, and have during the year that is passed obtained some new ground of advantage. They have to be fought as the DREADNOUGHT fights, with unceasing watchfulness and uncompromising vigour.

Long live the DREADNOUGHT! It brings to its readers the realisation of the great life of the human spirit of which we are all a part. It melts that ice of dreary sorrow and dull loneliness which destroys our faith, and therefore our power to win our own freedom. The life of the unconquerable human spirit is in our veins, as the sap is in the trees. If we believe enough, hope enough, love enough, and work enough we shall find for ourselves and for others that material and spiritual deliverance from bondage which we seek.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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"I have much pleasure in sending a word of greeting on May Day to the readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT. I hope that in spite of the War all of us who believe in solidarity will at least in our minds keep the day sacred and remember that it is the one day in the year on which some workers in every country will re-affirm their belief in liberty, equality and fraternity for men and women of every race and of every creed. It may be that many of us will be depressed and downcast because of the horrors of the War, but even so, out of the horrors of the War has come the Russian Revolution, with its demand to the workers throughout the world that we should all unite in controlling capitalist Governments and adventurers. In our own country there is a growing sense of responsibility for one another, and this May Day we must re-affirm our belief in the sacredness of humanity and in its power to redeem itself."

GEORGE LANSBURY.

I would say to the readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT that we should hope and so direct our labours that the coming of each May Day brings visibly nearer that complete understanding and association between the sexes, in economic affairs and politically, which is essential before the emancipation of the common people can be achieved.

E. C. FAIRCHILD.

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Very gladly I send a May Day greeting, and with it my congratulations for the work you have done, and my best wishes for the work you will do. We have been born upon the very cross-roads of history, we alive in the world to-day; and every life and every effort is of tremendous importance. During these hideous years of war, you are "keeping the fires burning"—the fires of all-embracing freedom and universal brotherhood. It is a time of great adventure, too. The unexpected will not happen, only because we must expect anything! And, maybe the scattered fires that you are tending will rush together and light up the world far sooner and more wonderfully than we dare to hope. But whether the time is soon, or whether it is long delayed, your work will be to do, and you will do it—so, here's to you.

MILES MALLESON.

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"You are doing fine work for the cause of freedom and peace and the elevation of women, and I wish you all success."—EDWARD GRUBB.

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 1.)

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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THE STARVATION PROBLEM

WHY NOT GIVE SOCIALISM A TRIAL?

Myrdle St. I School, Stepney, E.
April 26th, 1917.

It will be advisable for children not to bring lunch to school. By giving the child a good breakfast lunch is not necessary. In our present restricted state of food supplies, it is essential to eat only sufficient bread as is consistent with the health of the child. If we waste food now we shall have to go without later on.—A. Drysdale, Headmistress.

Here is a danger signal! brought home from school by a little girl of five, who reported that: "the teachers very often take the lunches away from some children." Obviously the economy campaign has overcome the better judgment of some who control the management of infant classes. As elementary school teachers know, only too well, there are countless homes in districts like Stepney in which it is not possible for the children to have a "good breakfast." Moreover, even if little children eat as much as they can at breakfast they ought to have lunch in the middle of the long school morning.

But this cutting off of the mid-morning lunch is nothing, the instigators of the circular will tell us, to what the children will have to bear later on. And, indeed, it appears that the belligerent Governments are determined to continue fighting until all the nations of the world are faced, not merely with intensified scarcity and hardship for those who are always poor, that has come already, but with actual famine.

Our Government admits that the menace of the submarine grows daily more serious, and quite apart from the wastage caused by the submarine, it is evident that when, over a period of years, the populations of the world are withdrawn from fruitful industry in order that they may engage in killing each other and in making the wherewithal to kill, whilst immense tracts of farming country are used only as battlefields, a growing food scarcity must result.

The Food Control Department, which has been set up to deal with the problem, appears to be most acutely conscious of the difficulties before it, but it is absolutely devoid of any constructive or concerted policy and spends its energies in mere beating of the air. Lord Devonport issues almost daily a new series of Orders, some of which are voluntary, some compulsory, but few of which are obeyed, and fewer still materially affect the situation. When the public outcry against the exorbitant price of some particular commodity grows too insistent he calls the traders together and induces them to accept the fixing of a price, but often before the outcry has subsided another deputation of traders—retail or wholesale—waits upon him and by showing him that the prices of other commodities have risen, easily induces him to raise the fixed price which already was appallingly high. Meanwhile, Mr. Kennedy Jones and Mrs. Pember Reeves, Lord Devonport's assistants, spend their energies in agitating against compulsory food controlling, filling long columns of the newspapers with their arguments, and journeying from meeting to meeting to explain the virtues of voluntary economy and the horrors of control.

Apparently the Department has been too much occupied with such tinkering and fuss to get to grips with the actual problem, which is terrific enough to appal the most courageous hearted. It is easy, as some have done, to say to the Food Controller: "Estimate the stocks of food, number the people, and share the food out between them." But the fluctuation of the harvest must be reckoned with, and how is it possible to foresee what proportion of the food ships destined for this country will escape the submarine?

SHIPPING.

In this connection we would ask the Government four questions:

(1). *Whether the Food Control Department or the Board of Trade has estimated the amount of tonnage required to bring to this country the necessary food supplies in excess of what can be produced here.*

(2). *Whether it has been arranged that this amount of tonnage shall be set apart for food import and that if any of this tonnage is sunk it shall be replaced either by new-built vessels or from vessels of the mercantile marine which are being used by the Government for naval and military purposes.*

(3) *Whether the Government has arranged that the tonnage used for importing food is used to the best advantage.*

(4) *Whether private profit has been altogether eliminated from the shipping business.*

Mr. Lloyd George said at the Guildhall that Sir Joseph Maclay "has brought practically the whole shipping of this country for the first time under complete control for requisition," and that "the ships are going to be concentrated on the essential and vital trade of the country." Unfortunately that is no definite assurance that profiteering is abolished or that the provision of food for the people shall take first place. Indeed, there is still only too much reason to believe that, in this as in other things the military authorities are the masters of the Government, and that the policy of the Military Authorities continues to be that of enlarging the Army as rapidly as possible, and of snatching all that they want for it, as they want it, and with no particular system. Whilst the militarists are allowed thus to dominate the situation, no food controller or any other authority can possibly regulate supplies.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP PROVIDES THE ONLY SOLUTION.

It is impossible either to prevent prices rising or to evolve a satisfactory system of distribution whilst competing thousands of private individuals, everyone making as much profit as can be out of it, are allowed to administer the food supply. Socialism provides the only solution of the problem, and though if the War continue indefinitely, even a Socialist scheme of distribution can only push further off the evil day of famine, a Socialist scheme can at least ensure that all the food there is shall be equally shared, and can preclude the possibility of some people dying of hunger whilst others are able to procure their customary meals.

The generations are passing; those who were carried to the Socialist Sunday Schools in the arms of elder brothers and sisters are grown men and women to-day, and sometimes it seems as though Socialism were no nearer. We have municipalised the trams, the gas and the water, but the Capitalists have achieved the retrogressions of the War! "Ah! but to-day we can count our Socialist comrades by the million." True, and now let us call on our Socialist comrades to put on their thinking caps and put forth their energies to secure a Socialist method of dealing with the people's food, which is needed in peace as well as in war, and will be needed more than ever in the years of scarcity and hardship which must be faced even though the War end to-morrow.

Socialists, workers, poor people who live always upon the verge of want, do not leave the solution of this problem to the harassed Food Controller, who has only the philosophy of capitalism to help him, and whose outlook and environment is that of the owner of grocers' shops!

Do not be hushed by talk of communal kitchens; do not allow us to drift into a state of affairs in which the masses stand in queues at the soup kitchen door whilst the classes continue to order their way of eating as they have always done. Cost price restaurants, communal kitchens, whatever you choose to call them, have been established in many districts ever since the outbreak of the War. The W.S.F. has two such institutions in East London, and in sight of them you may see the potato and margarine queues. Such restaurants are found most useful by the worker, but they cannot solve the present difficulty. The restaurant keepers are short of food just as the private housewives are. Moreover, we would urge that the true communal kitchen should be frequented by all classes, and if the communal kitchens which are being opened are to be worthy of their name they must be so managed that the most fastidious would be glad to be their customers. The communal kitchens may form a useful adjunct to a complete scheme, but in themselves they provide no solution for the food problem.

To solve the food problem it is necessary to devise a complete scheme of nationalisation, extending from the farmer and the importer to the consumer.

THE BELGIAN PLAN.

Such a scheme was set up in regard to bread and certain other staples by the Belgian Relief Commission. The Commission bought in the world market, and chartered its own ships to Rotterdam. It placed voluntary committees in charge of provincial districts, with further voluntary communal committees under them. The flour millers were paid salaries, usually about £40 per month, to manage their mills for the Commission. The Commission met all charges and paid the workers their normal wage. The mills are usually situated on the canals, of which there is a network throughout Belgium, and served as distributing centres. The flour was taken from them by the Communes at their own expense. A supply of wheat was stored at Rotterdam in case of interruption in overseas traffic, and the district warehouses stored flour to insure a steady supply to the Communes. The price of bread was fixed periodically by agreement; it depended on the price of flour, which depended on that of wheat. The flour was allowed to the Communes on a population basis. The baker in the original scheme submitted a list of customers to the Communal Committee, which then issued an allowance of 250 grammes of flour per customer, to be made into 330 grammes of bread. The later method was for the Committee to send the flour to the baker to be made into bread under a contract which provided that 1 kilo of flour should produce 1.350 kilos of good bread, and that the baker should be paid 8d. a kilo for his work. The baker delivered the bread to a depot, from which the people obtained it in exchange for bread tickets. Home-grown wheat was controlled by a committee consisting of American, Belgian, and German representatives. A proportion of the crop of each peasant was set aside for next year's seed and for food for his family. The remainder was sold at a fixed price equal to that for imported wheat. The money received by the Commission from 1st November, 1914, to 31st October, 1915, amounted to £15,917,007 1s. 1d.; £1,138,411 2s. 9d. was set aside as profit to be handed over to the Benevolent department, a profit of more than 7 per cent. What an enormous sum such a profit on the food consumption of this country would amount to! We have described the scheme as reported by the Belgian Relief Commission last year. Whether it still goes on as before we do not know.

The result of the scheme was that bread was cheaper in Brussels than in London.

A SIMILAR SCHEME NEEDED HERE.

A scheme no less complete must be established in this country.

Oh, but people do not want to be rationed: they do not like their liberty interfered with. "Consider what compulsory rationing would mean," Mr. Kennedy Jones urged us. "Surely the voluntary system, with all its defects, is preferable?" "Yes, it is to those who can get the food!" we all of us answer; but what is to happen to those who are crowded out?

We are most of us individualistic—of course it is pleasanter to follow one's own pleasure than to do the bidding even of a commonwealth in whose decisions we have a free voice, equal to that of any other member of the community. But when we speak of preserving individual liberty we must remember that people who work and are poor are always under restrictions. The employer of labour largely controls the lives of his employees, though nominally his business is only with their work. By dictating the hours of their labour, he actually forces them to rise early and to take their meals at certain times. By the wages he pays, he largely controls the sort of houses they live in, and the quantity and quality of their food and clothes. Well-to-do people are not in practice obliged to send their children to school; the poor are forced to do so, and are constantly harried, if not actually punished, should they decide that it is best for their children's own sake to keep them at home, even for a few days. People who are obliged to depend on Poor Law relief and soldiers' and sailors' wives are punished by the stoppage of their allowances if they take to drunkenness, but Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament do not forfeit their salaries for this offence, although the insobriety of a Parliamentarian may jeopardise the welfare of millions of people. The poor are always under restrictions: it ill becomes the comfortably placed to refuse to submit to restrictions in order that some of us may not starve.

It is urged that the poor will suffer most from compulsory food rationing. That will not be the case if the rich will submit to equality of treatment.

During the War the food question has passed through two stages. The first was the stage of artificial shortage, caused by gambling in prices, the creation of corners and so on, as a result of which poor people have gone hungry through inability to pay the price of the food which was present in great abundance. For some time past

(continued on page 742)

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

WOMAN SUFFRAGE
IN THE COMMONS, APRIL 30th.

Mr. Dillon (I.N.) said that a circular had been sent to members of the House by the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association requesting members to oppose the "consideration of women's suffrage till after the War," and that Lord Curzon, a member of the War Council, appears on it as President of this Association. Mr. Bonar Law, in defence, said that "the Government had left the question of women's suffrage to the judgment of Parliament." Therefore anyone can advocate his views on the subject.

Mr. Dillon: "Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the circular referred to protests against any attempt to discuss women's suffrage in this House during the War, and my point is this: Did the Prime Minister approve of a member of the War Cabinet putting his name to a circular protesting against the declared policy of his own Government?" Mr. Bonar Law replied that the policy of the Government in this matter is to leave that particular part of the subject to the judgment of the House. But if the "judgment of the House" is going to be "directed" by the efforts of the Antis, Adult Suffragists must see to it that their views are urged still more vigorously! It was Mr. Asquith who adopted these tactics on the last occasion.

* * * *

The Irish Women's Franchise League has sent a resolution of indignant protest against Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill to the Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

A REAL ANTI!

Driver Will Cullen has received a letter from Mr. Reginald Blair, M.P., for Bow and Bromley, in which he says that the great majority of women do not want the vote. In proof of this he says that he mentioned the matter to a medical woman at a hospital in the East who "would not even speak about the subject." Perhaps the medical woman knew that Mr. Blair was an anti-Suffragist and preferred not to be bored by his out-of-date views. Mr. Blair also adds: "The first woman I spoke to on the day that I received your letter, her husband had joined at the beginning of the War and she had been left to carry on the finances and look after the children, told me she would go crazy if women had the vote."

Dear, oh dear! was it Mrs. Blair?

PIMLICO AGAIN
NO BONUS FOR WOMEN.

As the result of considerable agitation, all the men in the Royal Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico, except those not eligible for superannuation (*i.e.*, the foremen and writers), have received a bonus of 5s. a week. The boys, whose wages were as low as 9s. 6d. a week, have received a bonus of 2s. 6d. a week only!

The women and girls have received no bonus, though girls are getting only 9s. 6d. a week, and the wage of adult women time-workers, numbering 700 or 800, is only £1 a week, including a previous War bonus. They work 45 hours a week, and if employed overtime only get bare pay till eight p.m. and on Saturday afternoons. They get time and a quarter if working after eight p.m. and time and a half on Sundays.

Of course, the women, who are strongly organised, protested and threatened to strike on learning that they were not to share in the new bonus. Mr. Forster then wrote:—

"In reply to your letter of 18th April about a bonus for women on time and piece work, I regret that I am not yet in a position to give you a definite reply, but I hope to make an announcement within the next day or two."

This was not satisfactory to the women, who wired that they would strike if the matter had not been decided on a given date.

ANOTHER DERBY SCHEME

Lord Derby revoked his "call-up" of doctors; but at the same time pointed out to the medical world that a certain number of doctors must be forthcoming weekly. If the number required is not forthcoming then he will reconsider the position.

This is the "Voluntary" Military Scheme over again!

A PLEA FOR WOMEN

The Women's Co-operative Guild, when urging the provision for maternity, pointed out that it should be universal without inquiry as to "necessity." They pressed for the formation of a maternity department of the L.G.B. with a woman at the head of it. Lord Rhondda promised to consider the suggestions.

PROHIBITION v. STATE PURCHASE

"Duror" writes in regard to State purchase of the liquor traffic:—"No one believes that the State, having bought out the Trade, will stop there. It must refund that enormous purchase price it has paid; and the only way in which it can do so is to maintain the normal supply of liquor. It matters not whether the capitalist State or the private owner be the trader, the results will be the same—profits for the Trade and misery and despair for the consumer. Secondly, is it right morally to acquiesce in State purchase? For years the private owners have battened upon the earnings of the people; the brewers have piled up profit on profit. The trade is essentially evil. . . . The complete destruction of the Trade itself is the only solution for Socialists."

"THE KNOCK-OUT BLOW"

The National Labour Press, which has been a tower of strength to the cause of peace, and has pluckily helped all progressive societies, has unfortunately been fined for the publication of the "Knock-out Blow." Since the excellent pamphlet has been so widely read, we do not fear that its suppression will matter very much now, but the serious side of the question lies in the danger of having the National Labour Press penalised for its staunch support of progress.

GAS AND SUMMER-TIME

Gas is fourpence a thousand dearer than last quarter, whereas the maximum price of coal is 1s. 11d. per cwt.; in winter it was far higher. Is this inequality to help the gas companies on account of the Summer Time Bill?

PENALISING MARRIAGE

The following letter, which we suppose other Canadian or Colonial soldiers may receive, has been sent us by a Canadian:—

"Dear Madam,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th ult. regarding the marginally noted subject. In reply, I regret to inform you that you are not eligible to receive Separation Allowance inasmuch as you did not comply with the Regulations governing the issuance of same, which stipulate that the marriage shall take place within 20 days after the date of the soldier's enlistment. Should the Regulations be amended at any future date to admit cases such as yours, no time will be lost in communicating with you.—Yours faithfully, Chief Paymaster, Canadian Expeditionary Force."

DO AS YOU ARE TOLD!

Girls who volunteered under the National Service Scheme for work in France are not allowed out after 4.30 p.m. whilst in London; in France not after seven p.m. One of these volunteers, an expert shorthand typist, was told she was to do bookkeeping. When she explained that she was incompetent in that branch, she was told: "You must do the work you are singled out for." This is surely only one of many efforts of trying to make a square peg fit a round hole!

HORRORS OF WAR

Three women died from results of an explosion in Scotland.

* * * *

German destroyers shelled Ramsgate and killed one man and one woman, injuring three.

* * * *

It is reported from Stockholm that 70,000 women demonstrated for cheaper potatoes and milk. In different parts of Sweden there is unrest on account of food shortage.

OUR DUTY

The following was resolved on by the Independent Social-Democrats of the Reichstag and Prussian Landtag:—"More than ever is it the duty of the working classes to see that this horrible War be brought nearer its end. Workmen and workwomen everywhere will be very specially imbued with this consciousness on May 1st. Where it is at all possible they will raise their voices for demands which most profoundly move them: For an eight-hour day, for world-peace, for the fraternity of peoples."

MOTHERS' PENSIONS TOUR

Owing to the non-arrival of Judge Neil—whom we are glad to announce has now safely landed in England after an adventurous journey—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was invited to speak in his stead on Mothers' Pensions. Most successful meetings were held:—In Leicester, where the I.L.P. and W.S.F. had a joint meeting, Mr. John Riley (President of the Hosiery Union) presiding. The Trade Hall was crowded. In Portsmouth, Leeds, York, and Sheffield the W.S.F. branches were most successful in organising the meetings, especially in Sheffield, where the lecture hall was well filled and large literature sales were made. A good meeting was held in Middlesborough under the auspices of the W.F.L., with Colonel Henry Williams in the chair. By far the largest meetings were those held in Merthyr and Aberaman, where there was not even standing room, either in the Rink, which holds 2,000, or the Grand Theatre, which seats over 1,000.

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BRADFORD'S COMMUNAL KITCHEN

The City of Bradford has had for the past ten years a communal kitchen capable of feeding 7,000 individuals daily at a little more than 3d. per meal (war prices), and the work is done by a staff of about a dozen people. The methods adopted in Bradford for providing school meals secure:—

Economy in buying,
Labour saving,
Saving of fuel, and
Prevention of waste;

and, on the positive side, variety of food and excellent cooking. What housewife, for instance, makes 20 different menus on 20 consecutive days, cooks her porridge for 20 hours, can compete in the market with wholesale buyers, or uses no more fuel than the steam available from the neighbouring baths?

The kitchen is a lofty one-storey building which was originally part of a too large gymnasium. Extensions had been made before the war, and they include a platform at the floor level which is the height of a motor standing outside. The stores are directly opposite the doors, which open on to the platform, and food not required at once goes direct into the store. The building generally lies to the right of this entrance. It has a concrete floor, white tiled walls, and glass roof. Immediately to the right beside the storerooms is the vegetable scullery, with potato-peeling and vegetable-shredding machines, and beyond that the kitchen proper. It contains nine huge steam cookers, four roasting ovens, and a bread-baking oven.

If it is a soup or stew day, the cook, mounted on a stand, will be stirring one of the cauldrons with a ladle as long as himself. A hundred gallons of milk pudding may be cooking in another boiler, while his attendants will be craning up several hundredweights of potatoes in the wire net in which they have been lowered for cooking into the boiler. The bread, mixed and kneaded by machinery, is baked a day beforehand into yard-long loaves, and is put direct from the oven into tall racks which can be wheeled from place to place.

The triumph of the system is in its carrying appliances, and these have all been invented by the officials themselves. Take the bread for instance. A loaf is put into a machine; a man presses an electric button; it slides quickly its own length, and he takes it up cut into slices and puts it into a zinc-lined box of exactly the right size. At the same time somebody is filling the plate-boxes; these are trough-shaped, and 50 plates fit in without the possibility of a rattle. They are always measured, not counted. By eleven o'clock the dinners are ready, and then the "tanks" come into use. These are cans of four or eight gallons capacity, made on the thermos flask principle with an insulated lining. They have an interior lid which prevents splashing. They are used for soups and stews. For pies and puddings square boxes capable of holding two great pie dishes are used, made in similar fashion, but of wood.

These carriers have been so highly successful that they have been copied by many other authorities. The oven doors fly open with a clang, and baked pudding in tins is thrust into these nests and carried to the carts. Meantime from one of the great boilers white sauce is poured into the small "tanks." Their destination is written on them, for the cook, as he regulates the tap, is apportioning the allowance to the number of each centre. Already the covered motor vans have been loaded along each side with the plates and bread and spoons in boxes, the most distant centre first. The pudding and sauce goes in the same order down the middle.

Now for the stew. The cook mounts aloft and raises the lid. Salt and pepper castors the size of pantomime properties are handed up to him. He flings in a handful or two, tastes his handiwork with a thoughtful face, approves it, and from taps the size of hosepipes it is run into the tanks. They are wheeled to the motors, and the savoury loads are off. They might be hours late, but the food would still be hot. In fact, the kitchen recently served up a piping hot meal to the Bradford Volunteers on a route march twenty miles from home.

The meal over, the dishes and spoons went back into their boxes, and were piled up ready for the motor-van, which collects them on the return journey. As soon as they enter the door of the kitchen the scullions are ready for them. To the left of the door is a steam-heated bath. They are plunged into it, chuted into a rinsing bath, and stacked into racks, man-high. The racks are wheeled into the drying-chamber beside the store room, and the plates are taken out dry, and packed next morning. The complete staff of the kitchen, apart from motor-drivers, consists of the cook, bakers, and seven porters, and they can turn out 10,000 dinners a day.

The quality of the meals is such that a large Secondary School voluntarily takes them for all its boarders, and hundreds of Bradford children on washing or cleaning days take the meals and pay 3½d. for them. Their actual cost last year was 3.12d. per head, though in two years of rising prices they have jumped up from 2d. Of the total cost administration counts for 1.39d. per head, and this could be reduced by at least a third if larger centres were used and the business were undertaken on a still more extensive scale. The menus were drawn up years ago by experts in physiology. It is a fact which might interest the Food Controller that only six and a half ounces of meat per week per head are used.

One is impressed by the ease with which so much food is prepared among perfect conditions and exquisitely cooked. How many Bradford mothers spend hours peeling potatoes, cutting up vegetables, mincing meat, kneading dough with their hands—work which is done here by machinery, and even more efficiently.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE (to celebrate May-Day) will hold
A GRAND RE-UNION
at the HOLBORN & CONCERT HALLS, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.
TO-DAY SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 1917
Dancing, Speaking, &c., from 6.30 p.m. to midnight. Doors open 6.30 p.m.
Tickets 1s. each from GEORGE BELT, 21 Tudor St., E.C., or at the doors
Mr. Percy Harvey's Band will be in attendance
M.C.s—F. C. Haddar and F. Furhman
Speakers: George Lansbury, Tom Mann, Maude Royden, Muriel Lester H. W. Nevinson, Francis Meynell, William T. A. Foot

A MONSTER MAY-DAY
Labour Demonstration
Finsbury Park, Sunday Next, May 6, 3.30 p.m.
Principal Speakers:
TOM MANN
National Transport Workers' Federation
GEORGE LANSBURY
Editor "The Herald"
SYLVIA PANKHURST
Workers' Suffrage Federation
W. CARTER
National Union of Railwaymen
Four Platforms. Twenty-six prominent Trade Union Speakers.
Four Great Processions with Bands and Banners will start from the following points:
Holloway Prison 2.45
Camden Town (N. London Railway Station) 2.15
Northumberland Park, Tottenham 2.
CLAPTON COMMON (The Swan) 2.
Workers of London, come in your thousands and demonstrate the spirit of May-Day—THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF LABOUR.
RALLY! RALLY!! RALLY!!!

WEST CENTRAL BRANCH OF W.S.F.
"AT HOME"
TO MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST
MAY 19th, 7 to 10 p.m.
Emily Davison Lodge Rooms, 144 High Holborn.
Music . . . . . Light Refreshments

THE STARVATION PROBLEM--continued from page 740

we have been in the second stage in which there is no general famine, but a shortage of certain commodities,—potatoes, sugar and bread. Because these things were likely to become scarce, their prices were steadily raised, and though, at long last, their rise has been partially checked, the price of substitutes has continued to mount unrestrainedly. At last we learn that the Food Controller has decided to take over from the original consignees all Burmah peas and beans, and he will bring down their price from the current price of 1s. to 6d. per lb. That is all to the good, but the fact that the Controller can so greatly reduce the price is a striking evidence of the unscrupulous profiteering which has obtained, It is a remarkable instance of the value of national buying.

We are now upon the threshold of the third stage: that most serious one in which there will be an actual shortage of food in the aggregate, not a shortage merely of some particular kinds of food, but of any sort of food.

During the period of partial scarcity which is yet with us the distribution has been and is grossly unequal, some have gone without, whilst others have had more than they required. The districts in which the majority of people are too poor to pay the price of expensive substitutes are those in which there has been scantiest provision of the stape fixed-price foods. In East London large families have been unable to get more than two or three pounds a week of dark Manilla sugar, but anyone going to the Army and Navy Stores who is able to mention the number of a subscriber can buy up to 7lbs. of fine white sugar, without inquiry being made as to the size of the family, or the date on which the last purchase of sugar was made. Whilst certain well-known personages have decorated their dinner tables with sugar aeroplanes, the children of the Poor Law Schools at Shenfield have lost weight during the last six months because of the reduction in their sugar rations.

Germany and Austria began by rationing only certain staple commodities, hence those who could afford to buy expensive foods, which were not rationed, did not need to curtail their diet. This we have learnt from Americans, who, whilst their Government remained neutral, were the war-time newsbearers of the world.

Under such a system, whether it be in England or Germany, those who can pay 1s. a lb. for butter beans, those who can pay the extra penny for haricots, and substitute a chicken when meat is scarce, can buy themselves out of famine, and can maintain their ordinary routine, whilst their neighbours starve or wait for hours at the soup kitchen or in the street queue.

The moral is that it is imperative to establish a complete scheme of control and rationing on a Socialistic basis.

HOW IT MIGHT BE DONE.

At present the Government buys food for the Army: let it buy for the civilian population also, as the Relief Commission did in Belgium. It matters not whether the buying be done by the Board of Trade, the Food Controller, or some other Department, so long as the work is properly done. It seems to us improper to place such a matter in the hands of a grocer who, like Lord Devonport, is in private business for himself, but if the food supply were to be nationalised, like the Post Office, the objections even to Lord Devonport's appointment are minimised. It might be advisable to make the Food Controller, the President of the Board of Trade, or whoever is to be the national buyer, the chairman of a committee composed of one-third trade union representatives of the workers in the trades concerned, one-third representatives of working women's organisations, and one-third expert buyers. There would be many advantages in this plan, provided the individuals chosen were elected by the organisations they were supposed to represent. On the other hand, a Parliamentary Committee would give the electorate the opportunity of voting against its members should they prove unsatisfactory.

Let the county councils, borough and urban district councils in England and Wales, and the town, burgh, and county councils in Scotland, be co-ordinated in the scheme. Already it is announced that these councils are to operate a system of compulsory food rationing. These bodies cannot effectively deal with rationing unless they are given power to regulate the supplies and the cost of food, and are co-ordinated in a national scheme. We hope that they will insist upon these things being done. If the local governing bodies are to control the food supply, it is imperative that the franchise for these bodies should be democratised, so as to enable every man and woman to vote for the members of these bodies; and it would be well that elections should take place at an early date, in order that the people may choose other administrators if the present councillors prove unfitted for the task.

The duty of the county councils under a national Socialist scheme would be to ensure that the districts within their jurisdiction received their due share of the common food supply, procuring from the Board of Trade or other central authority what might be necessary to supplement the food produced within the county. The councils would also see that the farmer, who would no longer farm on his own account, but as an employee of the State, used land and labour to the best account. They would see that the miller was supplied with corn, which he would grind for a fixed salary, his workers being also paid by the State; and the council would see to it that the requisite amount of flour was forthcoming. The borough and district councils would have to see that their districts received their due proportion of food, and would control the bakers and shopkeepers, each of whom would be working as a paid manager for the State. These councils would also have the duty of superintending the distribution of food to the consumer, a difficult problem, requiring careful organisation.

At the present time several bakers' shops and milkmen's carts visit every street. This is a most wasteful practice. County, borough, and district councils would gradually endeavour to ensure that, as far as possible, the miller should serve the baker nearest to him, and that each milkman and baker should deliver bread and milk within a given district. Under communal management, adulteration and the production of inferior commodities would cease, for things would be produced primarily for use and not for profit.

It would be cruel to turn out all the little shopkeepers, although perhaps there are too many of them, and although their lack of capital, and the lack of capital or of consideration of their landlords have caused the premises occupied by many of them to be anything but suitable for keeping food. But as occasion offered the community would open its own shops on model lines.

RATIONING.

In peace time compulsory rationing would, of course, have no place in the communal arrangement, but during the War it is necessary, and it can only be organised fairly and completely under a Socialist scheme.

The Institute of Hygiene has prepared a specimen family book for voluntary rationing, in which the only maximum rations per person indicated are bread, 4 lbs., meat 2½ lbs., sugar ¾ lb., but in which a complete record of family purchases is kept to prevent hoarding. It is suggested that no shopkeeper shall sell food of any kind without entry in the Ration Book, and that coupons shall be used for restaurant meals. A specimen page heading with one entry in this Ration Book is shown as follows:

No. of Adults, 2; Children, 2; Children's ages, 3, 5.

Date.	Quantity.	Food Bought.	Price per lb.	s.	d.
Mar. 5	½lb.	Steak	2s.	1	0

The opposite page is used for analysis.

Dissect'on.				Notes.
Meat.	Flour.	Bread.	Sugar.	
lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	lb. oz.	
½ 0	—	—	—	

Such a book would not serve for a complete rationing system, because it does not indicate the total amount of food to which the family is entitled, nor does it provide any check upon the shopkeeper.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to devise a satisfactory scheme for rationing all foods, except upon the basis of their caloric value. Though at first sight it may seem tedious to go into the matter thus carefully, it is abundantly worth doing if it brings home to us the fact that a sufficiency of nourishing food should be regarded as the inalienable right of each one of us. A ration book based on these principles would necessarily contain a table giving a rough working estimate of the caloric value per lb. of a large variety of foods. Shopkeepers would require a similar list. This list would occupy probably the first two pages of the ration book.

A ready reckoning page would save the trouble of calculating how many calories would go to fractions or multiples of a pound. Another page would lay down the number of calories per week to which persons of different ages and classes were entitled, perhaps on the following lines:—

Class A.—Manual workers over 14 years are entitled to 25,900 calories per week. Mothers of families who do their own housework are treated as manual workers.

Class B.—Sedentary workers and persons of no occupation over 14 years are entitled to 16,800 calories per week.

Children between 13 and 3 are entitled to 15,000 calories per week; children from 1 to 3 years, 10,000 calories; 1 year and under, 6,000 calories.

It would be stated that:—

These rations are subject to reduction should the national food supply prove inadequate to maintain them. Certain commodities, being scarce, are specially limited, and of these manual workers are allowed one-third extra. Other foods are not limited provided the total is not exceeded. The number of limited foods may be extended.

A specimen account page would be as follows:—

Name
Address

Allowance per family { Restaurant coupons / Calories for home consumption

(You are limited to ½ lb. sugar, 3 lbs. bread, 2½ lbs. meat per person.)

Date.	Commodity.	£	s.	d.	Cal.	C'd.	f'r'd.

The total caloric week's ration of a family consisting of a manual worker, with wife and children, might be distributed as follows:—

	Calories
Manual worker entitled to	25,900
Wife	25,900
Child under 1	6,000
,, ,, 3	15,000
,, ,, 5	15,000
,, ,, 14	15,000
,, ,, 16	15,000
Total	117,800

	Calories
21 lbs. bread	25,200
5½ lbs. sugar	9,680
12 lbs. meat	11,520
9 eggs	540
5 lbs. margarine	18,000
9 pints milk	3,240
25 lbs. swedes	5,000
3 lbs. cheese	5,760
8 lbs. fresh fruit	1,600
3 lbs. nuts	4,200
3 lbs. lentils	4,800
2 lbs. rice	3,200
1½ lb. fish	450
2 lbs. beans	3,200
1½ lb. sago	2,400
10 lbs. Quaker oats	17,600
Total	116,390

The week's rations, which Mrs. P——, a soldier's wife, actually buys at present, work out in caloric values as follows:—

WEEK'S RATIONS.

Mrs. P——:—Five children (13, 11, 8, 4, 2).

	Calories
63 lbs. bread	75,600
3 lbs. rice	4,800
2 lbs. margarine	7,200
3 lbs. meat	2,880
5 lbs. vegetables	800
6 pints milk	2,160
1 lb. fish	300
½ lb. bacon	480
1½ lentils	2,400
3 lb. sugar	5,280
8 lbs. maize	12,800
	114,700

Under the rationing plan we have indicated, Mrs. P—— and her family would only get 95,900 calories, so that the rations we have indicated, which are based on those of a dietetic expert, are probably much too low, and require to be increased, but that is merely a question of adjustment.

Strips of perforated restaurant coupons for members of the family who take their meals out could be gummed into the ration book. Each restaurant meal could be counted as a quarter of the day's ration of that individual, the total caloric allowance of the family being reduced by that amount. One perforated coupon would be torn off and presented to the restaurant keeper for each restaurant meal. The shopkeeper would keep the counterfoil in the ration book.

It should be noticed that, except in regard to commodities in which there is a special scarcity or expectation of scarcity, there need be no specific rationing under this scheme, except in regard to the total consumption of all foods. This would give free play to individual choice, and would tend to restrain persons accustomed to a varied diet from consuming the full ration of staple necessaries in order that they might be debarred from buying as much as they wanted of other things.

It may be objected that the provision either of family books or tickets will not ensure that those who present them will be able to buy food, and that, therefore, the waiting queues of women will still appear. But if shopkeepers supply the number of their customers to the local authority and the shopkeepers are notified of the ration for each customer according to the supplies sent to him, there can be no question of some people having to go without.

THE PROBLEM OF THE SMALL HOLDER.

Much is said as to the difficulty of rationing people who grow vegetables or keep hens. We are told that in Germany and Belgium the small holder could not be induced to deny himself the right to eat the produce he had grown and to exist on the meagre hunger rations prescribed for him. Therefore the country people were better fed than those in the towns. It seems to us that too much fuss should not be made about this aspect of the question. It must be clearly borne in mind that the first object of rationing is to procure food for all, not to impose hardship on all. We think that people living in towns who keep hens or grow a few vegetables in their back gardens should not be placed on a lower ration than their neighbours, for it is open to all to make such small additions to their food supply. In the case of allotment holders, who grow vegetables for their own use, a deduction of one-eighth or one-sixteenth of the caloric allowance per family might be made by the local authority. As for the farmer, he would now no longer be working for his private interest, but as manager for the State, and provided that there were no hoarding, we think that unquestionably he and the workers on the farm should have as much of the food produced by their labour as they could eat.

The method of distributing the rationing books

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 3.)

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

April 24th.—Mr. Byrne (I.N.) pointed out that over a hundred public Boards in Ireland had passed resolutions for the better treatment and release of the Irish prisoners. Still, the Government remains adamant.

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Soldiers transferred to the Reserve have been stranded in a town in England without a pass home and their wives' allowances have been stopped Mr. MacCallum Scott (L.) said. Mr. Macpherson could not deny the accusation which proves that the War Office is still as lax as ever.

HOUNDING DOWN.

As a result of the recent agitation, Mr. Brace announced that it had been decided to suspend the leave of "C.O.s" except in exceptional cases. Those in Princetown are not even to be allowed to visit towns and villages outside Princetown.

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Mr. Anderson (Lab.) stated that a message was recently sent to the Farmers' Association Merchants' Guild, Svendborg, by Messrs. Kearley and Tonge to the effect that owing to the slowness of the markets here further consignments of goods should be withheld. Mr. Bathurst explained that the firm had too much butter in stock, and therefore did not wish any more shipped for a time. The Food Controller, he hastened to explain, had not been consulted in the matter. Yet telegrams of this nature, we understand, should pass through the Food Controller's hands; strange that his own firm should be favoured!

REPRISALS.

Mr. Molteno (L.) drew the attention of the House to the fact that the Freiburg air raid caused many casualties, including twenty-six women and children killed and injured. Mr. Bonar Law justified this action by saying that in "certain circumstances reprisals are inevitable"!

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It was announced that the publicity campaign of the National Service Department up to the 16th inst. cost £62,000.

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Sir J. S. Harmood-Banner (U.) thinks that the "extra wages" earned by munition workers ought to be compulsorily devoted to War savings. Does he let anyone dictate to him what to do with his income?

IRELAND AND THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. Byrne (I.N.) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland what the Government's proposals are with reference to the demand of Irish women for the vote; and whether Ireland will be included in the electoral reform proposals?

Mr. Duke: "These proposals will no doubt appear in the Franchise and Registration Bill to be founded on the recommendations of Mr. Speaker's Conference."

CORN PRODUCTION BILL.

The President of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Prothero, introduced a Bill which he seemed to think would greatly encourage the production of cereals and increase tillage. Rural life, he feels, must be made more attractive, and that is to be attained by offering men farm labourers the princely minimum of 25s. per week. Wages Boards are to be set up; farmers are to be guaranteed prices for their grain, irrespective of climatic or soil differences, and if the market price is not 60s., then the State will pay the difference. Should the market price be 60s. or over, the farmer who grows a good sample of wheat is still to get the bounty! Mr. Prothero believes in calling workers back to the land; but with present prices 25s. a week offers no inducement. Women are not even to get this miserable minimum. Mr. Runciman (L.) opposed the Bill on behalf of the Liberals, and urged that the possibility of sweating boys was going to encourage farmers to employ more boys than men, and we think more women, too, if the women are foolish enough to allow their patriotism to be used as a bribe. Miss Violet Markham said recently that she did not think 18s. a week, as offered under the National Service Scheme, an adequate wage; but pleaded that women should not regard it as a "wage," but as "maintenance during training." How long the training was to last she omitted to explain. This Corn Bill, therefore, assures the farmer of a good market price, but leaves numerous loopholes for the use of cheap labour.

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April 25th.—Mr. Hogge (L.) urged the Pensions Minister to issue a minimum pension which would make it certain that a discharged soldier would not be reduced to entering the workhouse, as is at present the case. Mr. Barnes referred him to his Royal Warrant as the panacea for any possible hardship.

THE DOOMED SPARROW.

Dogs, cattle, and now sparrows are to be reduced in number because of their destructive ways. It was announced that "sparrow clubs" are to be organised throughout the country, and that children will be organised under their teachers to do away with sparrows. Mr. Chancellor (L.) denounced allowing children to kill birds, because of the demoralising influence thereby developed. What applies to children and sparrows applies equally to men and men!

COMPULSORY EXAMINATION.

The case of the medical examination for venereal disease of the two women who were wrongfully tried for soliciting was queried by Commander Wedgwood (L.). He pointed out that the women very probably did not know they might refuse to be examined. Another case of compulsion was cited by Mr. Outhwaite (L.), who stated that a child of thirteen, whose case was before the City Court, was compelled to undergo an examination.

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Mr. Mooney (I.N.) disclosed the case of a skilled man in agricultural work being offered a job as railway porter under the National Service Scheme. The Parliamentary Secretary of the Scheme, Mr. Walsh, avoided the responsibility by explaining that the placing of applicants "does not concern the National Service Department"!

MATERNITY BENEFIT.

Mr. Byrne (I.N.) asked for the maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act to be increased to £5 and disablement benefit to 10s. The reply was in the negative, which makes one wonder how much truth there is in all the talk about the welfare of mothers and children.

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Mr. Jowett (Lab.) told of the case of a boy of sixteen who had been working eighteen hours a day in a bakery. He was put in communication by the Lewisham Labour Exchange with a society called the Boys' Country Work Society, under which he signed a document agreeing to work until he was eighteen for a farmer in Cornwall. And yet Industrial Conscription is said not to have been introduced!

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The continuation of the Corn Production Bill debate was taken. Mr. Lough's amendment that instead of reading the Bill now it be postponed for six months was put to a division, with the result that 288 voted for the Government and 27 against.

Parliament and Local Elections Bill as received from the House of Lords agreed to. This enables County Council elections to be held in March, 1918.

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April 26th.—Mr. Bonar Law spoke with great approval of the possibility of Poland being a nation once again; but failed to see that Poland and Ireland had anything in common!

RUSSIAN METHODS.

Mr. Lynch (I.N.) pointed out that two Gaelic League organisers have been expelled, which looks as though this was a means of destroying the Gaelic League. It looks as if Russian cast-off methods were being taken over wholsale by the British.

ANTI-"C.O." CAMPAIGN.

Again more stringent measures against "C.O.s" are being demanded. Major Hunt (U.) suggests that those who do not do a fair day's work should be offered to the Germans in exchange for British wounded.

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Dr. Macnamara stated there are now 9,000 women employed in the Royal Dockyards, various establishments, whereas only 650 were employed before the War. Are they getting the same pay as the men?

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Mr. Macpherson acknowledged that Sir Douglas Haig did not sign the request for the "Nation" to be banned.

ALTERNATIVE PENSIONS.

Mr. Barnes explained that the new Warrant provides that a man may apply for an alternative pension who finds that his pension and children's allowance, together with whatever he may earn, do not amount to his pre-War earnings. If refused, he may apply further. Yes; but will he get an increase?

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Women who volunteered to act as sorters in France are paid 26s. for a week of 48 hours, with overtime. They are obliged to sign an agreement which binds them for twelve months or the period of the War, whichever is the greater. Is patriotism worth no more than this?

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April 27th.—Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Imperial War Cabinet had unanimously accepted the principle that:—"Each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of our Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire." This principle is to be operative after the War; where, then, are the possibilities of a lasting peace?

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Mr. Hogge (L.) urged that when over-payments are made by paymasters to soldiers that the paymasters should be held responsible and not the soldiers' wives. Mr. Forster could not agree to any such rational suggestion.

PRISON PUNISHMENTS.

Mr. Jowett (Lab.) detailed a number of punishments operative in Dartmoor Convict Prison up to February, 1917. They included putting prisoners in irons for six months, compelling them to wear button suits which cause considerable torture, and the use of body-belt irons that clamp the legs, at the same time ironing the hands behind the back. Mr. Brace explained these punishments away; but as he stated that forcible feeding is always administered in such a way as to cause as little pain as possible, we must have some more reliable information before doubting Mr. Jowett.

MUNITIONS OF WAR BILL.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, Mr. Kellaway, introduced a Bill to extend the original Munitions Act so as to include all work of national importance, to enable the Government to secure dilution of skilled labour on private work. To support this, Mr. Kellaway praised the useful work women had done in munition factories, and implied that in other industries they would do equally good work. Mr. Anderson (Lab.), in a long speech pointing out the horrors of the original Munitions Act, urged that there seemed to be no guarantee against compelling workers to work for sweated rates, whereas the leaving certificate, with all its difficulties, would prevent workers leaving on account of under pay. He gave many examples of the injustice cause by charging workers with bad timekeeping, etc., and stated that in the month of March there were 965 cases brought before the Munitions Court in Sheffield, 254 of which were dismissed. Power should be given to punish employers who bring frivolous cases into Court.

Mr. Pringle (L.) moved: "That this House declines to proceed with the second reading of the Bill until the restrictions upon the freedom of employment of munition workers are removed." He urged that smooth and harmonious working between employers and workmen had been rendered impossible by the various restrictions upon employment, and if that were to be extended to other industries great friction would be caused. The House divided, and the amendment was defeated by 100 to 10. It is a strange accident that National Service should be introduced on a voluntary basis, and that now, when those who have volunteered under a voluntary system are at work, compulsion in the shape of the extension of the Munitions Act is to be imposed on them. Agriculture was specially mentioned, so that, should the Bill become law, land workers will find themselves being obliged to work for 18s. a week without redress!

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April 30th.—Sir F. Banbury (U.) stated that the Sugar Commission refused to buy 19,000 tons of sugar on January 1st from a reputable City firm which had not previously dealt in sugar. As a result, the sugar was sold abroad.

MEATLESS DAY A MISTAKE.

Captain Bathurst, in reply to Mr. Fell (U.), said that the meat-less day may have to be abandoned "in view of the undue strain on the consumption of our breadstuffs." No breadless days will be introduced because bread is indispensable.

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Men doing substitution work under the Ministry of Munitions, Mr. Bliss (L.) said, have not been paid the subsistence allowance promised. He quoted cases where men have had to keep themselves and their families on mere Army pay. Dr. Addison stated that new arrangements were now being made to avoid any recurrence of such cases.

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Mr. King (L.) asked why Russian newspapers are not circulated more freely in this country. Mr. Macpherson said there was no demand for those papers, nor any embargo on their importation.

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Sir F. Banbury (U.) stated that a farmer in Wiltshire was sent the names and addresses of six capable ploughmen. He called at their addresses and found that one man was dead, one had an ulcerated leg and could not walk, one was a gravedigger, and that two were employed by the Swindon Corporation, whilst the sixth was not to be found. The National Service Department denied the facts; but Sir F. Banbury promised proofs! What a humbug scheme!!

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

It was moved by Mr. Booth (L.) and seconded by Commander Wedgwood (L.) that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill be recommitted in respect of Clause 3, which demands the arrest of girls found loitering or behaving in a riotous manner in the streets, and who, if under 18, may be sent to an institute until their nineteenth year. Commander Wedgwood stated that every woman in the country was, quite rightly, furious about this clause. He complained of the hurried manner of its introduction to the Committee on the last day of the sitting. Mr. King (L.) and Mr. Dillon (I.N.) made strong protests, the latter urging that the abominable part was that this clause was directed only against women. "Are you prepared to take up young men in the streets who happen to be found walking about soliciting and put them into homes?" he asked. Sir G. Reid (U.) said that this clause created a new crime, that of loitering.

Sir G. Greenwood (L.) proposed a clause which would give power to make prisoners undergo compulsory examination, and defended it on the ground that "there was no sexual inequality" in that suggestion! Captain Guest (L.) supported him whole-heartedly, but, luckily, Mr. Clyde, the Lord-Advocate, was very definite about rejecting the clause. Both Captain Guest and Sir G. Greenwood are of opinion that venereal diseases can only be exterminated in this way. Amongst the amendments accepted was that of Mr. D. Millar (L.), which increased the penalty for offences where the offender is suffering from venereal disease in "a communicable form" from a maximum of two years' penal servitude to a period not exceeding five years. Mr. Dickinson (L.) made an able attempt to have the age of consent raised to seventeen; but the Lord Advocate tried to convince the House that by raising the age by one year you weakened the clause which made it an offence for a man to have intercourse with a girl under sixteen years—he did not consider it worth while for an additional twelve months. Well, why not do as Mr. Dickinson said Professor Fournier, an expert on the subject, suggested should be done: "That Governments use their utmost powers for the absolute suppression of the prostitution of girls below the age of civil majority." The further consideration of the Bill was adjourned until Friday.

HARRYING "C.O.'S."

Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke (U.), on the adjournment of the House, pursued his condemnation of the leniency of the Government towards "C.O.'s," particularly those in Princetown. Mr. Brace pointed out that the Government regarded these men as civilians, they were neither soldiers nor prisoners, and if the House wanted stricter measures it must "settle that with the Government."

FOREIGN NEWS

According to the "Journal du Peuple," the Swiss Socialist Deputy, Robert Grimm, has gone to Petrograd to arrange with the Minister of Justice, Kerensky, for an exchange of Russian exiles and political emigrants with Germans interned in Russia.

According to the "Berner Tagblatt," five Socialist papers are published in Petrograd, of which one only—the social-patriotic "Nasche Delo"—is advocating the continuation of the war until Germany is crushed. All the other papers are more or less for an immediate peace, especially "Prawda" (Truth), edited by Lenin, which protests powerfully against the continuation of the "death-community," and calls the workers to oppose the war by the revolution.

Six thousand persons have protested in Bern (Switzerland) against high milk prices, and have adopted a resolution urging the Government to suspend immediately the increase of prices until arrangements will be made to distribute milk at reduced prices to people with small incomes.

A Radical-Republican party has been formed in Russia, founded by Maxim Gorky. Its programme is to establish a democratic Republic on the base of wide administrative autonomy and guarantees of rights of nationality. It also demands a radical reform of social legislation and agrarian policy.

The Berlin authorities have militarised the great munition factories to stop the strike. The workers have been ordered to resume work on the 21st April, when they will be considered as soldiers under military laws.

THE "VORWAERTS" AGAINST ANNEXATIONS.

The organ of the Socialist Majority says:—"One must realise that the strongest and the steadily growing party in Germany is opposed to all conquest policy. Its manifestations are in favour of a peace without violence to anybody and which guarantees to the people rights of self-destiny. The German Government recognises now the legitimacy of this standpoint, and is disposed for peace negotiations on equal terms with the other Powers, repudiating all ideas of territorial annexations.

THE AWAKENING IN GERMANY.

The success of the Berlin and Leipzig strikes prove the growing influence of the "Union of Labour" (Socialist Minority). They appeal to the masses against militarism.

Hunger advises—Socialism guides. Ideas may soon prove stronger than guns.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

From the "Journal de Genève":—"For the Russian Extremists the Germans are not implacable enemies to Russia, but a nation of brothers oppressed and misled by an unscrupulous Government. The peoples of the Entente they regard as innocent victims, who, like the Germans, suffer under the capitalist system, which is the true enemy of all nations."

"The efforts of the working classes in Europe should be directed to force the Governments to renounce all projects of conquest, and if they resist they must be deprived of their power as they have been in Russia. They are prepared to shake hands with the German and Austrian people on condition that they force their own Governments to renounce all conquests."

The "Mühlhauser Tagblatt" announces that many secret places have been discovered where food was hidden.

The "Leipziger Volkszeitung" announces that many children are dying from lack of food.

The Cabinet in Spain has been dismissed, and a new Cabinet formed.

A Revolutionary hymn has been adopted in Russia. Its motto is "Fraternity, Love, Liberty."

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.
Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

Name.....

Address.....

WHAT'S ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, MAY 4th.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, MAY 5th.
Well Street and Morning Lane, Hackney, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Fire Station, Hoxton, 2.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
SUNDAY, MAY 6th.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Hyde Park, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
MONDAY, MAY 7th.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
TUESDAY, MAY 8th.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Lesbia Road, Hackney, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, MAY 10th.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
FRIDAY, MAY 11th.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, MAY 12th.
Morning Lane and Well Street, Hackney, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 3 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "At Home," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand)—To-day (Saturday), 3.30 p.m., Mr. G. P. Gooch, "The Future of Constantinople"; Miss M. O'Callaghan, "The Present Outlook." May 12th, Mrs. Cedar Paul, "Militarism and Parenthood"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road.—Sunday, May 13th, 7 p.m., Mr. E. J. Smith (League of Peace and Freedom), "Sex and Personality." Chair, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Singing Class. Thursday, 8 p.m., Speakers' Class, Mrs. Boyce.

BROMLEY, 53 St. Leonard's Street. Monday, May 7th, 2 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.

29b LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C., May 7th, 7 p.m., Branch meeting.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, May 9th, 8.15 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, "The Russian Revolution."

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

May-Day Labour Demonstration, Finsbury Park, to-morrow, May 6th, 3.30 p.m. We understand the Committee is endeavouring to organise a children's contingent. All progressive Societies and Trade Unions are asked to bring their banners. All communications and subscriptions should be sent to L. S. Howard, 75b Grand Parade, Green Lanes, Harringay, N. Full list of speakers and particulars in our advertisement columns.

MAY-DAY GREETINGS (continued from Front Page).

"I want to wish you God-speed in the great work in which you are engaged and the splendid fight which the DREADNOUGHT is making for the right of every man and woman for a voice in the making, and administration, of the laws by which their daily life is governed. I feel that your claims, however righteous under normal conditions, are doubly justified in this time of stress and trial, and in view of the dark days which are yet to come I think that it is absolutely essential in the interest of the nation itself that all persons of full age should be entitled to the vote. It is to be hoped that a Revolution will not be necessary in this country to secure the free and full exercise of the franchise, but if the reactionaries still insist in denying ordinary human rights to the people of Great Britain, then I feel that drastic action will be fully justified, and the blame for anything that took place would rest entirely upon those who have sat on the safety valve regardless of the danger which is threatened. We cannot any longer allow ourselves to drag behind Russia in a matter of this kind."

ROBERT SMILLIE.

"AT HOME"

CHANDOS HALL, (21a Maiden Lane, Strand)
TO-DAY
Mr. G. P. GOOCH "The Future of Constantinople"
Miss O'CALLAGHAN "The Present Outlook"

W.S.F. SOCIAL

THE LIBRARY, MEMORIAL HALL, Farringdon Street, E.C.
SATURDAY, MAY 26th, 1917, 8—11 p.m.
Short Speech by Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Sketches, Monologues, Songs, &c. by well-known artists
DANCING 9—11
TICKETS—1s. 2d. (including Tax) Refreshments and Literature

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY
91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END
W. WOODS & SONS, *Family Bakers*

W.S.F. BRANCHES
ARE YOU AN ACTIVE WORKING MEMBER?

Please Address: Branch Business to Miss Lynch; "Dreadnought" Reports to Miss O'Callaghan, 400 Old Ford Road, E. 3.

LONDON

BARKING.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

Bow.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Stevens, 400 Old Ford Road, E. Branch meetings are held every second and fourth Monday. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending April 28th, 552; Miss Harriet, 245; Mrs. Holloway, 67; Miss Price, 34; Miss O'Brien, 24; Miss Lynch, 22; Mrs. Greer, 14; general, 150.

BROMLEY.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

CANNING TOWN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

CENTRAL LONDON.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Casey, 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104. Branch meeting, May 7th, 7 p.m.

ENFIELD AND EDMONTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

HOXTON AND SHOREDITCH.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.—This shop is open daily for the sale of Socialist, Labour and Feminist literature. Hours, 12 noon to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m. Closed all day Thursdays. If you deal with us you will help the funds. Branch meetings every Thursday at 8.15 p.m. We urgently need a piano for our hall; will some kind friend present us with one? DREADNOUGHTS sold, 84.

LEYTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 52.

POPLAR.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagading, 20 Railway Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 133; Clinic, 79; general, 54.

TIDAL BASIN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road. DREADNOUGHT sales average 52.

SOUTH NORWOOD.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. J. W. Everett, 141 Portland Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

ST. PANCRAS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

WILLESDEN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold. 12. Branch meetings, 7.30 p.m., alternate Mondays, at B.S.P. Hall, 148-150 High Road, Willesden Green, N.W.

PROVINCES

BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRADFORD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRIGHOUSE.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Woodhead, Wood View, Shelf, near Halifax.

BRYNMAWR AND NANTYGLO.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

BURNLEY.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.; Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

CHOPWELL.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

CORNSAY AND QUERSC.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Winter, 196 High Street. Branch meeting, Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

DONCASTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

FERRYHILL.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Key, Bradford Road.

HULL.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Bryan, 91 Derringham Street, Springbank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

LEEDS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 72.

LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helen Bakewell, 28 Macdonald Street, Bellgrave. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 161.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilevski, 18 Broughton Street, N. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

MEDOMSLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

PRUDHOE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 39.

ROTHERHAM, WAKEFIELD.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, 125 Bradshaw Street, Nelson, Lancashire.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 312.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Samuel, 33 Mount Street, and (pro. tem.) Mr. Tudge, 16 Orchard Place. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

STIRCHLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Henson, 85 Watford Road, King's Norton, Birmingham; Assistant Sec.: Miss Shepley.

YORK.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hall, 43 Lowther Street.

WORKINGTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Martin Howard, 48 Beeby Street.

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

MAGISTRATE GIVES FAIR PLAY

On Sunday, April 29th, the police made two arrests in connection with a disturbance at our Adult Suffrage meeting in Victoria Park. Their cases were brought up in Old Street Police Court next day. The magistrate, park-keepers, and police were very fair towards our cause, in spite of the repeated Jingo remarks, "pro-Germans," "foreigners," etc., of the men in the box.

One man was fined 10s. and the other £3, and the magistrate imparted to them the good advice that if they disagreed with the views expressed at these meetings, and wished the Government to discontinue them, they must represent their grievance to their M.P. and County Councillors, and not disturb meetings nor handle women roughly.

THE CITIZEN SCOUTS

Damage to the amount of 15s. was caused to the Citizen Scouts Boys' Band on Sunday, April 15th, in Victoria Park. This must be made good to them. Who will help?

LIBEL ACTION AGAINST THE "DREADNOUGHT"

The costs of this action are expected to amount to about £80. £53 8s. 6d. has been subscribed up to date. We ask our readers to help us to meet the deficiency.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED HELD OVER.

THE STARVATION PROBLEM (continued from 742).

to the families would be largely governed by local circumstances, and would be decided by the local authority concerned. In crowded districts it would probably be convenient to make a house-to-house census and distribution. Another system which has been suggested is that of having special food money, each family being obliged to pay a certain proportion of its income—say a third—at the post office each week, in return it would be supplied with a specified sum in special food coins, which might, perhaps, have a hole in the centre to distinguish them from ordinary money. The amount of food money supplied to each family would be the same for every family, whether rich or poor, though the amount of money deposited would, of course, vary tremendously. Food would only be sold in exchange for food money. This system would be an excellent one in many ways. At present the poor spend practically all their money in food and rent; the rich only a small proportion. This special food money plan could be combined with a family book system.

The money question is, of course, the most difficult of all. Even in normal times masses of people go half-starved, and when prices rise their number is increased. Prices will continue to rise unless the Government is prepared to do for the consumer what it has promised to do for the farmer; that is, pay the difference. In the farmers' case the difference between the price promised him and the price in the world market, should prices fall; in the consumers' case the difference between the normal price and the price in the world market, should prices rise.

The best plan of all would be to give food rations to all of us without charge, and let us pay for it in the rates or the income tax.

Are we ready for that? If we are, none need starve whilst others live in plenty.

But let us remember, every day that the War lasts brings starvation nearer.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WANTS.

The rising price of food is causing grave distress amongst poor families. Help us to provide the milk, nourishment and necessary clothing, without which doctoring is of small avail. Send a subscription to the Treasurer of our Distress Fund, Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, 400 Old Ford Road, E., or a parcel to Miss NORAH SMYTH at the same address.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

HALL TO LET, for meetings, etc. Holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply, Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

WANTED, CLEANING or **NURSING** in East London. Apply Mrs. L., Box 21, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

WANTED, Situation as **COOK** in Restaurant or Hotel; good references. Apply Box 22, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

HAND-MADE UNDERCLOTHING. Soldier's wife, good needlewoman desires work to do at home; good references. Women's nightdresses made from 2s. 6d.; babies' gowns from 1s. Mending and darning also undertaken.—Apply Box 20.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; a Furnished House conveniently situated.—Apply "400" this Office.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

FEDERATION SOCIAL

The social held at 400 Old Ford Road on Saturday the 28th inst. in aid of the General Fund was very successful. We wish to thank all those who helped in playing, singing, giving refreshments, or in other ways. It is hoped to hold one every month. The next will be in connection with the Annual Conference. It will take place on May 26th at the Library, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. Tickets 1s. 2d. each.

Muriel Matters
will lecture on
The Montessori Method
and
Infant Welfare
At the MORLEY HALL, George Street, Hanover Square.
FRIDAY, MAY 11th at 5 p.m.
Hostess: THE LADY SYBIL SMITH
Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY will also speak
All interested in child welfare and education are cordially invited
Application for Tickets (admission free) should be sent to the "Mothers Arms", 438 Old Ford Road, E. 3. enclosing stamped envelope for reply.

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